

ICT-2011.5.6 ICT solutions for Governance and Policy Modelling FP7-ICT-2011 Coordination Action (CA) project

# Final Community and Constituency Building Report (D 3.3)

**Work package:** WP 3 – Community and constituency building

**GA Number:** 288136

**Acronym:** eGovPoliNet

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modelling research and practice community

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Abstract:

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The eGovPoliNet community provides a platform for sharing experiences and knowledge. Work package 3 addressed the fragmentation of research communities, as well as the fragmentation caused by different disciplines by building a common network where researchers from different disciplines and countries can interact. The aim of this work package is to engage all stakeholder groups to work together in exchanging ideas and information. The focus was on the e-government, information systems, complex systems, Public Administration & Policy research and social simulation research communities, although persons from other research communities and

practice were also involved. This report documents the activities and

achievements of the project in the third period.



#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES	3
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	4
1. INTRODUCTION	6
1.1. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE THIRD PERIOD	
1.2. THE PURPOSE OF THE DELIVERABLE	
1.3. APPROACH	
2. COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUENCY BUILDING STRATEGY	
2.1. project objectives	
2.2. COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUENCY BUILDING OBJECTIVES	
2.3. STRATEGY FOR CONSTITUENCY BUILDING	
2.4. STRATEGY OF EVENTS FOR CONSTITUENCY BUILDING	
2.5. Online community building strategy	
2.6. FACE TO FACE COMMUNITY BUILDING STRATEGY	
2.7. SUMMARY	
3. COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT	18
3.1. TARGETED COMMUNITIES	
3.2. THE 'COMMUNITY' IN PERIOD 1 (START)	
3.3. THE 'COMMUNITY' IN PERIOD 2	
3.4. COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUENCY BUILDING IN PERIOD 3	
3.4.1. Community building events	
3.4.2. Community building events for collaboration	
3.4.3. Community building events by having special issues of journals	25
3.4.4. Policy Informatics Curriculum	
3.4.5. Springer book "Policy-Practice and digital science"	26
3.4.6. PhD colloquia	
3.5. THE ROLE OF LINKEDIN AND THE PORTAL IN THE COMMUNITY	
3.6. ANALYSING THE COMMUNITY AT THE END OF PERIOD 3	
4. COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES PLANNED AFTER THE PROJECT ENDING	33
REFERENCES	
ANNEX A: TEMPLATE FOR COMMUNITY & CONSTITUENCY BUILDING ACTIVITIES	36





#### LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

Figure 1: Overall community and constituency building strategy for the eGovPoliNet proje	ct as
suggested in the technical annex	7
Figure 2: eGovPoliNet's concept for international community building	12
Figure 3: Event organisation protocol	14
Figure 4: Social network analysis of the eGovPoliNet members at the start	19
Figure 5: Social network analysis of the eGovPoliNet members after period 1	20
Figure 6: Social network analysis of the eGovPoliNet members after period 2	21
Figure 7: Overview of the disciplinary background of the chapter authors	27
Figure 8: Overview of discussions and comments in the LinkedIn community over time	28
Figure 9: Overview of the traffic of the Portal	28
Figure 10: Social network analysis of the eGovPoliNet members after period 3	30
Figure 11: Social network and the eGovPoliNet members after period 3	31
Table 1: Overview of measures and values at the end of period 1, period 2 and end of the project  Table 2: Main communities targeted	
Table 3: Community building events organised in period 3 and assigned to targeted communities.	
Table 4: Types of community building activities, number of collaborative engagements of communities and impact achieved	
Table 5: Number of peer-reviewed publications in two special issues	25
Table 6: Overview of PhD colloquia and students distributed across disciplines	27
Table 8 Overview of the LinkedIn and Portal community	
Table 7: Collaboration at the end of period 3	29
Table 8: Social network at the end of each period	32
Table 9: Indication of planned community events to sustainably support collaboration of the P Community	•
Table 10: Indication of planned PhD colloquia of the sustained Policy Community	





#### ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BU Brunel University CERTH Centre for Research and Technology Hellas COMPASS The University of Auckland CTG/SUNY Center for Technology in Government/State University of New York DG INFSO Directorate General Information Society and Media DG. O Digital Government Society Conference DGS Digital Government Society EC European Commission ECMS European Conference on Modelling and Simulation ECCS European Conference on Complex System ECEG European Conference on Complex System ECEG European Conference on e-Government ESSA European Social Simulation Association ICDGS International Conference on e-Business and e-Government ICEGG International Conference on e-Business and e-Government ICEE International Conference on E-Business and e-Government ICEGOV Information and Communication technology ICT4GOV Information and Communication Technology for Governance IFIP International Federation for Information Processing INNOVA SPA IPR Intellectual Property Right IRSPM International Research Society for Public Management ISA International Research Society for Public Management ISA International Research Society Fechnology IT Information Technology IT Information Technology IT Information Technology IT MRSU MOSKOWSKIJ GOSUDARSTVENNIJ OBLASTNOJ UNIVERSITET MS Milestone PIDS Project Information and Dissemination Service PPP Public Private Partnership PPT Power Point Presentation PUC-PR ASSOCIACAO PARANAENSE DE CULTURA APC RC33 Research Committee on Logic & Methodology of ISA R&D Research and Development RG Rijksuniversiteit Groningen SEO Search Engine Optimization TBC To Be Communicated TUD Technical University Kosice UCD University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Dublin UKL University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Dublin	APPAM	Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
COMPASS The University of Auckland CTG/SUNY Center for Technology in Government/State University of New York DG INFSO Directorate General Information Society and Media DG. O Digital Government Society Conference DGS Digital Government Society EC European Commission ECMS European Conference on Modelling and Simulation ECCS European Conference on Complex System ECEG European Conference on e-Government ESSA European Social Simulation Association ICDGS International Conference on e-Democracy, e-Government and e-Society ICEBEG International Conference on e-Business and e-Government ICEE International Conference on e-Business and e-Government ICEGOV Information and Communication technology ICT4GOV Information and Communication Technology for Governance IFIP International Federation for Information Processing INNOVA INNOVA SPA IPR Intellectual Property Right IRSPM International Research Society for Public Management ISA International Sociological Association IST Information Society Technology IT Information Society Technology IT Information Society Technology IT Information Society Technology IT Information Technology MRSU MOSKOWSKIJ GOSUDARSTVENNIJ OBLASTNOJ UNIVERSITET MS Milestone PIDS Project Information and Dissemination Service PPP Public Private Partnership PPT Power Point Presentation PUC-PR ASSOCIACAO PARANAENSE DE CULTURA APC RC33 Research Committee on Logic & Methodology of ISA R&D Research Engine Optimization TBC To Be Communicated TUD Technical Universite Delft TUK Technical University Kosice UCD University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Dublin	BU	Brunel University
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EC European Commission  ECMS European Conference on Modelling and Simulation  ECCS European Conference on Complex System  ECEG European Conference on e-Government  ESSA European Social Simulation Association  ICDGS International Conference on e-Democracy, e-Government and e-Society  ICEBEG International Conference on e-Business and e-Government  ICEE International Conference on e-Business and e-Government  ICEGOV International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance  ICT Information and Communication technology  ICT4GOV Information and Communication Technology for Governance  IFIP International Federation for Information Processing  INNOVA SPA  IPR Intellectual Property Right  IRSPM International Research Society for Public Management  ISA International Research Society for Public Management  ISA International Sociological Association  IST Information Society Technology  IT Information Technology  MRSU MOSKOWSKIJ GOSUDARSTVENNIJ OBLASTNOJ UNIVERSITET  MS Milestone  PIDS Project Information and Dissemination Service  PPP Public Private Partnership  PPT Power Point Presentation  PUC-PR ASSOCIACAO PARANAENSE DE CULTURA APC  RC33 Research Committee on Logic & Methodology of ISA  R&D Research and Development  RG Rijksuniversiteit Groningen  SEO Search Engine Optimization  TBC To Be Communicated  TUD Technische Universiteit Delft  TUK Technical University Kosice  UCD University College Dublin, National University of Ireland, Dublin	DG. O	Digital Government Society Conference
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ULAVAL	Universite LAVAL
UNU-IIST	UNU International Institute Software Technology UNUIIST
UTS	University of Technology Sydney
VOLTERRA	Volterra Partners LLP
VUB	Vrije Universiteit Brussel
WCSS	World Congress on Social Simulation
WP	Work Package





#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Communities can be defined as "computer-mediated spaces where there is a potential for an integration of content and communication with an emphasis on member-generated content" (Hagel & Armstrong, 1997). Communities refer in general to a group of people who share some common interests, interacting with each other through the Internet and are facilitated by face-to-face meeting. Communities must preserve intimacy among members and a sense of membership continuity to make the community sustainable (Hagel & Armstrong, 1997). Communities consist of generated content but also of hooks such as calendar events and membership directories, which encourage increased community interaction (Jones & Rafaeli, 2000). Therefore creating community building activities is an essential part of eGovPoliNet project.

Work package 3 is designed to address the fragmentation of research community, as well as the fragmentation caused by different disciplines by building a common network where practitioners and researchers from different disciplines and countries can interact. This work package has set the necessary communication structures in place for ensuring joined multi-disciplinary research, practice and development. The aim of this work package is to engage all stakeholder groups to work together. The approach is to create two-way interaction between various scientific communities. The focus on research and less on practitioners was set as a new direction for the project.

WP 3 seeks to establish closer working practices between the target groups by starting the discussion of future projects. Whereas year 1 was focussed on recruiting the initial members, the main activities for the year 2 and 3 were related to the organisation of face-to-face and virtual meetings and extending and integrating scientific communities. Year 2 was focussed on expanding the community, whereas year 3 was focussed on continuity and sustaining the community.

#### 1.1. SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE THIRD PERIOD

The community and constituency building strategy is schematically shown Figure 1. In the first year (phase 1) the European and international multidisciplinary research landscape was outlined by identifying the key players in terms of ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling R&D and by determining the targeted communities. The second period (18 months) was focussed on growing the community by organising events by the project members and involving key players. New members were attracted by organising community and constituency building activities at various conferences, organising tracks, workshops, panels and PhD Colloquia. The final year was focussed on sustaining the community by focus on collaboration type of events and PhD Colloquia which resulted in further growth of the community.

In the third year community and constituency building activities at various conferences have been organised resulting into collaborations among members from different communities. Tree PhD colloquia were organised at three different conferences to stimulate interdisciplinary research in this field. Also workshops and panels were organised, bringing together people from different academic communities and practitioners. Over the project, the strategy of community and constituency building consists of online activities and face-to-face meetings. In particular

- workshops and panels to engage researchers coming from different disciplines
- Joint papers, comparative cases and best practices
- Monthly virtual meetings with the eGovPoliNet partners were held to develop content, keep track on events and coordinate the activities.





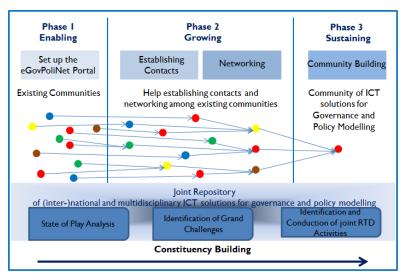


Figure 1: Overall community and constituency building strategy for the eGovPoliNet project as suggested in the technical annex

For building a sustainable community, our premise is that content is needed to attract people and let them contribute to content development. Success depends on incorporating existing practices and exploring new practices.

The progress over time is measured by collecting data at the end of each period and calculating the metrics for determining the status of the community as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview of measures and values at the end of period 1, period 2 and end of the project

	Initiating (end of period 1)	Expanding (end of period 2)	Sustaining (End of project, end of period 3)
LinkedIn: number of members	267	1290	2740
Portal: number of members	0	53	163
Portal: number of unique visitors	0	219	612
Analysis of the social network			
Network size ('knowing')	160	485	513
Network size ('collaborating')	42	91	187
Network density	0,019	0,021	0,024
Network Closeness (average geographic distance)	2,94	3,06	2,93
Analysis of the collaboration			
Number of joint papers	6	28	141
Number of workshops and panels	8	12	15
	(2 panels)	(4 panels)	(4 panels)
Collaboration leading to a paper	4	28	59
Number of PhD colloquia organised	0	4	3
Number of PhD proposals at colloquia	0	33	13





In period 1 the initial members were recruited and several workshops and panels were organised. In periods 2 and 3 a large number of community building activities were conducted. The network grew considerably during the last period and a continuous stream of new members subscribed to the LinkedIn community. The increase of new members can be attributed to the reaching of a critical mass; once a critical mass was reached it became more attractive for new members to join. In the second and third period, we had more collaboration among members than expected which resulted in a slight increase in the network density, despite the growth in members. In the second period the network closeness has slightly increased, as there were many new members that do not know each other. In particular in the LinkedIn community there are many members that do not participate actively and only passively follow discussions.

In period 3 the focus was on collaboration and ensuring the activities become sustainable. The focus was on continuing in the same outlets. Furthermore, we involved non-eGovPoliNet partners in the organisation of events to ensure that the activities will sustain after the project has ended. As we are creating and shaping this new field, the need for having a solid knowledge base and a curriculum to translate the developments in existing education programmes arose. A book was edited laying the knowledge foundation for this field and a curriculum was founded which provides a reference for implementation educational programmes in this area. All these activities together should result in a sustainable community that goes on after the project has ended.

The policy-making 2.0 LinkedIn community has become a channel to announce activities and to share new ideas. Familiarity with members, perceived similarity with others, and trust in other members has demonstrated by Zhao et al. (2012) to be important in communities. In the community building process the familiarity among members has been build and members who were previously in different communities started collaborating. Not only continuing online, but also keep organising physical meetings is important to keep the community running. We succeeded to continue many activities after the project ending to ensure that the community keeps on going.

#### 1.2. THE PURPOSE OF THE DELIVERABLE

Work package 3 is designed to address the fragmentation of research, as well as the fragmentation caused by different disciplines and approaches. eGovPoliNet focuses on building a community for researchers and is less focussed on practitioners, although also practitioners are part of the community. The aim of this work package is to engage all stakeholder groups to work collaboratively. This report is D3.3 Final Community and Constituency Building Report.

#### 1.3. APPROACH

WP 3 seeks to establish closer working practices between the target groups by recruiting members, to organise face-to-face and virtual meetings, and to extend the community. To realise this, the WP consists of five tasks. The approach is to create two-way interaction between researchers coming from different communities.

According to the technical annex, WP3 consisted of the following main tasks:

#### Task 3.1: The multidisciplinary and international eGovPoliNet landscape (M1 – M6)

In the first task an overview of the European and international multidisciplinary research landscape was created, which outlines who is doing what in terms of ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling R&D and practice. Existing and growing communities related to ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling across Europe and worldwide were identified. D3.1 contained an overview of the different disciplines, researchers and practitioners in the field (M. Janssen, Klievink, & Deljoo, 2012). This overview served as starting point to set up collaborative links with the main research and practice centres all over the world and to help implement the first phase of eGovPoliNet (Enabling).





### Task 3.2: Organise multidisciplinary and international face-to-face workshops and working meetings (M1 - M36)

Many workshops and meetings were organised as reported in D3.1, D3.2 and this document. During workshops different stakeholders from different disciplines were invited covering various teams. During the project it was decided to focus on researchers instead of practitioners which influenced the execution of this task.

## Task 3.3: Organise multidisciplinary and international meetings with existing communities (M7 - M36)

Meetings with communities in different fields were organised to expand the community of eGovPoliNet. This also included working meetings with existing projects funded under FP7 in the field of ICT for

Governance and Policy Modelling which resulted in special issues for the International Journal of E-Government Research (IJEGR). As the focus shifted towards researchers, there were not separate meetings organised for practitioners and commission representatives.

#### Task 3.4: Multidisciplinary and international PhD colloquiums and seminars (M1 – M36)

PhD colloquium were used for international engagement that can bring a cadre of top quality doctoral students into the eGovPoliNet community. The program of this PhD colloquium involved students from different countries in Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and Australia, although dominated by participants from Europe. The PhD colloquium took place once a year. Supportive organisers were TUD, SUNY/CTG, UNU-IIST and UKL.

# Task 3.5: Setup of collaboration spaces for emerging sub-communities to share and discuss knowledge assets that will later on be fed into the general knowledge base of the eGovPoliNet portal (M1-M36)

Each month a virtual meeting using Clickmeeting was organised. In this way community members could collaborate and share ideas and knowledge assets. In these meetings short presentations were given and feedback was discussed. Clickmeeting was used as it offers a collaborative, interactive, and mobile learning environment. It helps to create virtual classrooms, offices and meeting spaces that offer the opportunity to talk (voice) and see each other (video), present slides, chat and work together on a whiteboard. These meetings were recorded, minutes were made and the minutes, slides, recordings and other material were stored in our shared working space.

#### 1.4. OVERVIEW OF THIS DOCUMENT

The tasks in this work package all relate to addressing the fragmentation of research and practice in the field of ICT for governance and policy modelling. There are two previous reports.

- Overview of the community building strategy and the start of the community which is reported in D3.1, see (M. Janssen et al., 2012);
- The events organised in period 2 and the impact of these events (as reported in D3.2, see (Marijn Janssen & Deljoo, 2014)

This report contains the development of the community and the events organised in period 3 and the events that are already planned for after the project ending. In this final report (D3.3) we will give an overview of the community and constituency building strategy in the next chapter. In chapter 3 the communities for period 1 and 2 are first discussed followed by the events and community and constituency developed and the metrics for measuring the growth. In chapter 4 the community and constituency building events that are already planned for taking place after the project ended are presented.



#### 2. COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUENCY BUILDING STRATEGY

eGovPoliNet was a project funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme and it's aimed to set up an International Community in ICT solutions for Governance and Policy Modelling. The consortium was composed of partners from various countries both within and outside of the EU, working together to share ideas, experiences and practices in the field. The community and constituency building strategy was detailed in D3.1 and D3.2. The main text is similar as in D3.2 (Marijn Janssen & Deljoo, 2014), but on some place refined to capture the experiences during the years.

#### 2.1. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

eGovPoliNet has five key objectives: 1) To establish a global multi-disciplinary digital participation, governance and policy modelling research and practice community. 2) To integrate the currently fragmented research in digital public participation, governance and policy modelling. 3) To stimulate joint research and practice in the eGovPoliNet agreed research areas. 4) To disseminate eGovPoliNet research and practice amongst public governance and policy modelling stakeholders. 5) To provide a barometer of research and practice effectiveness for public governance and policy modelling in Europe and worldwide by establishing a corpus of knowledge and lessons-learnt resources to evidence what kind of projects have delivered what kind of results and have thereby been considered effective for digital public governance and policy modelling.

To achieve these objectives, eGovPoliNet will build on experiences gained by leading actors bringing together the innovative knowledge of the field. The forecasted activities are:

- To establish a dynamic network of researchers
- To encourage international community building of relevant stakeholders working in relevant areas.
- To encourage multidisciplinary constituency building.
- To expand the social networking and Web 2.0, as well as exploit mass cooperation platforms for networking stakeholders.
- To identify new tools and technologies, concepts and approaches, good and bad practices which help address complex societal issues and provide findings at the eGovPoliNet portal.
- To make efficient the collection of feedback from public sector organisations on the contents provided by the eGovPoliNet portal.

eGovPoliNet is aimed to let the community grow. Therefore, criteria were developed to evaluate the development of the network (i.e. demonstrate that the community is growing and collaborating, as reported in D3.1, see (M. Janssen et al., 2012)). The added value of connecting different actors, from different backgrounds and operating in different communities lies in the idea that they can learn from each other in terms of background, methods, projects, and practices. In this section, we provide a brief overview of a strategy for expanding the network.

#### 2.2. COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUENCY BUILDING OBJECTIVES

The overall objective is

Seeking collaboration between different actors that are from different backgrounds and operate in different communities.

The specific aims of this WP are





- Expand the network to include more disciplines and to get a better representation of underrepresented disciplines;
- Encourage collaboration between researchers of multiple disciplines;
- Expand the network to include more practitioners/policy makers and to get a better view of the networks they provide access to;
- Encourage collaboration between researchers and practitioners;
- Encourage international (comparative) research (many countries are represented; this provides a great opportunity);
- Encouraging the joint organisation of workshops, panels, special issues etc.

These specific objectives are used to formulate the detailed strategy for constituency building.

#### 2.3. STRATEGY FOR CONSTITUENCY BUILDING

Community building is ill-researched and there is a limited number of strategies available. Brown (2001) successfully applied 3 phases for community building in distance learning classes. Each of the phases should result in a greater degree of engagement.

- 1. *Making friends*: connecting on-line with whom students felt comfortable communicating.
- 2. *Conferment*: making participants part of a long, thoughtful, threaded discussion on a subject of importance after which participants felt both personal satisfaction and kinship.
- 3. *Camaraderie*: which was achieved after long-term or intense association with others involving personal communication

Researchers and practitioners need to work together in order to tackle policy challenges by integrating different perspectives, developing comparative studies, and sharing their experiences. This is challenging due to factors like (Zhang et al., 2011, p. 3)

- 1. a lack of shared interest and sense of urgency to collaborate;
- 2. forming and maintaining personal relationships (Kraut, Galegher, & Egido, 1986; Zhang et al., 2011);
- 3. disciplines having different traditions, norms, values, whereas interdisciplinary research has relative fewer established outlets for publication

The more varied the potential members of the community are the more difficult it might be to create a coherent community. Of vital importance is that the potential members have something in common like shared interests, experiences, goals, values or vision (Brown, 2001). Successful communities "are well-balanced systems that oscillate between exploring new practices and exploiting existing ones " (Probst & Borzillo, 2008, p. 345). There are 3 dimensions that are important for communities (Zhao et al. 2012):

- 1. the *structural dimension* can be reflected by the extent and quality of relationships and familiarity. Familiarity is "the extent to which members of a community know each other based on interaction" (Lu, Zhao, & Wang, 2010, p. 347). Familiarity with other community members is viewed as a condition for advance the community.
- 2. The relational dimension. This dimensions looks at personal relationships between individuals which develop through repeated interactions between members. This contributes to building trust among participants. In the community building activities the fostering of personal relationships is key to let the community grow.
- 3. the *cognitive dimension* related to perceived similarity among members. Similarity is defined as "the extent to which that community members perceive sharing common characteristics such as shared goal and vision one perceives with other members" (Lu et al., 2010, p. 347).





Similarity is important, but members should also be sufficiently different to foster variety and to add value to the eGovPoliNet community by bringing in different aspects.

By having a focal point on policy-making problems as experienced by practitioners a clear and shared objective is created in which different disciplines should contribute to the same practical challenge. The forming and maintaining of personal relationships is accomplished by having online and face-to-face community building. By having a three year strategy consisting of various phases the difference in values should become accepted.

A gradual approach to community and constituency building was taken. In general, the first phase was aimed at setting the foundation (portal, community, ideas), whereas the second phase was aimed at generating activity by the eGovPoliNet members. In the third year the activities by eGovPoliNet members were complemented by activities of non-eGovPoliNet members. This should ensure a self-sustainable community after phase 3, in which the value comes from the network, the size of the network and available knowledge. This can be expressed in the following stages:

- 1. Enabling/Initiating (period 1)
- 2. Growing (period 2)
- 3. Sustaining (period 3)

The overall concept of the project to achieve constituency building is depicted in Figure 2 (taken from technical annex). eGovPoliNet thereby exploits online and face-to-face meetings to connect and establish the community. Physical meetings will mostly serve to strengthen the community through social relations.

These meetings were organised in conjunction with important conferences and other events relevant to the community and served as point of reference, where results and information gathered in the recent period were discussed, structured and amended, and plans for the subsequent period were confirmed from the work plan or will be revised accordingly. Regular virtual discussions (online and offline) were used to support the achievement of eGovPoliNet's objectives to strengthen the community.

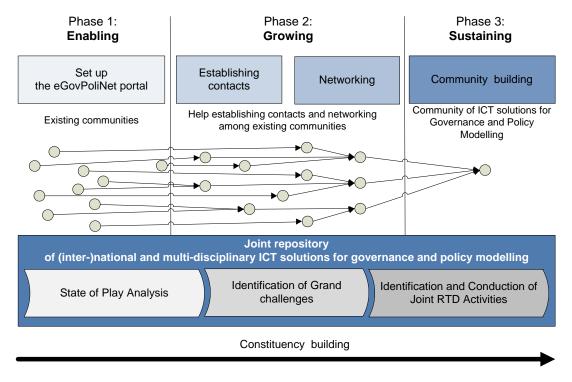


Figure 2: eGovPoliNet's concept for international community building





A key part of the strategy was that partners seeks collaboration with other parties. For each partner, it was expected that they recruited additional members to the (online) network and that each partner organised a workshop (at different conferences and events) with people from other communities. In the first period of the project, partners invited people from other communities to a workshop or event. In the second and third period, workshops were organised in communities to which people from other communities were also invited.

#### 2.4. STRATEGY OF EVENTS FOR CONSTITUENCY BUILDING

The strategy of phases 2 and 3 was aimed at letting the community grow. Relevant players from various communities were targeted. The community building activities were always targeted at least two communities. The event should ensure that persons from at least 2 different communities are involved as shown in Figure 3. The figure summarised the events organisation protocol. Each event should result in a *measurable output* of the event and report this in the template. The community and constituency building template is attached in ANNEX A: TEMPLATE FOR COMMUNITY & CONSTITUENCY BUILDING ACTIVITIES. Ideally the template should be filled in before *and* after each activity. However, in practice the template was often only filled after the activity took place. The advantage of filling in the template before the activities took place is that it can be used to explain, share and discuss the plans. After the activity the template should be filled in to evaluate the actual impact (this must be very specific like the list of participants, outcomes like joint papers, cases etc.). The community building reports delivered by partners are used for the social network analysis and collecting other metrics.





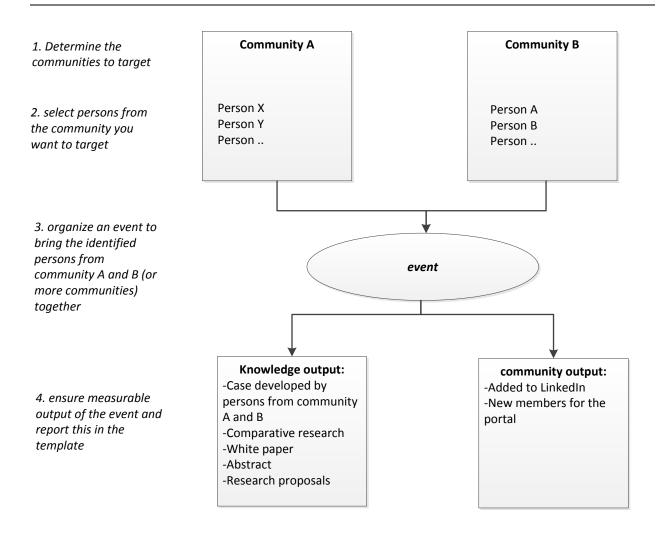


Figure 3: Event organisation protocol

The reports contain the participants list, sometimes pictures of the events and titles of the papers/abstracts/PhD proposals. This provided us insight in who attended the events and what the direct effects of the events were. There might be indirect effect (like for example writing joint project proposals) which are harder to measure and are only known afterwards (like when a project is accepted).

The basic idea of realising this strategy is that each partner organised community and constituency building activities. Activities target always at least 2 communities to bring them together. For these activities *persons* (name, email address, affiliations) were identified from the communities that should be involved. If papers, abstracts or PhD proposals were part of the output, then these were uploaded in the portal whenever possible (i.e. sometimes copyright issues prevent this). The ambition is that at least the title, author(s) and abstract are uploaded to enable community members to know each other.

#### 2.5. ONLINE COMMUNITY BUILDING STRATEGY

The online community consists of two types of community building focus points. One activity is open for everybody and is used to create awareness of the network, show some of the activities and stimulate discussions. For some persons this will be what they desire, whereas others want to collaborate with each other in-depth. Therefore, the second online community building is focussed on in-depth knowledge exchange, the sharing of findings and detailed activities. The results of the





community building activities should be that members are confident in contributing, feel valued and feel part of the community and that they learn from each other.

The LinkedIn eGovPoliNet community Policy Making 2.0<sup>1</sup> is aimed at attracting a large user base of people who are interested in bridging scientific and practice communities. Online community building requires the setting of some conditions to make it work. We used the following guidelines (based on Brown, 2001).

- 1. Environment that fosters openness, respect and trust
- 2. Demonstrated interest, support, sincerity, understanding of the existing disciplines
- 3. Share relevant experiences as well as information that would help others
- 4. Word responses positively, even when provocative ideas and opinions are presented
- 5. Provide timely feedback, provide support and stimulate discussion by asking questions
- 6. Try to get threaded discussions going
- 7. If necessary, communicate with individuals directly

In the beginning, the community was held small to enable the eGovPoliNet partners to create content and prepare. In this way the community can be made attractive before inviting people and having a large user base for which limited content can be offered. In years thereafter the goal was to boost the online efforts and all partners are asked to follow a plan and contribute in four different ways.

- 1. To post a comment concerning the eGovPoliNet related research one is working on. This could be an example, development, reference to relevant report or an open discussion on a certain topic.
- 2. To recruit somebody from an external research community to post something. Community building requires the involvement of other organisations than those who are part of the consortium. The member should recruit somebody from another community and ask them to post something in that week
- 3. This is similar to 2, with the exception that this is targeting the practitioners' community. Somebody from practice should be recruited to post something.
- 4. Comment on a posting (contribute to discussion on this topic and make it lively).

These actions should ensure that the community shows activities and is attractive. Once there are activities of non-eGovPoliNet partners the community should become self-sustainable.

The *portal* is aimed at stimulating sharing among eGovPoliNet members who are actively working on integrating communities by working on best practices and research crossing communities. In the traditional situation people tend to do things in their own disciplines. Coalitions having participants from various disciplines might breed new ideas, have more problem solving capacity and view the problems from different disciplines. The portal is first filled with more information before a large number of members will be invited. A certain critical mass of knowledge is necessary before these can be developed.

To stimulate this collaboration and in-depth knowledge sharing, there were organised virtual meetings each month. In these meetings 2 partners were asked to give a short presentation of their contribution as a case, paper or other community building activities. After experimenting for the virtual meeting space Clickmeeting<sup>2</sup> was selected. Clickmeeting offers a collaborative, interactive, and mobile learning environment. It helps to create virtual classrooms, offices and meeting spaces that offer the opportunity to talk (voice) and see each other (video), present slides, chat and work together on a

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See https://www.linkedin.com/groups/Policy-Making-20-4165795 (last access: 27/02/2015)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See www.clickmeeting.com



whiteboard. These facilities should stimulate collaborating among eGovPoliNet members. The meetings were recorded, minutes were made and the minutes, slides and recordings were stored in our shared workspace.

The basic idea is that eGovPoliNet partners would contribute in cooperation with someone from another community (practitioner, scientific). In this way the activity in itself already contributed to the community and constituency building activities.

Some of the results of these activities were stored and made available in the portal. This provided the content of the portal to make it attractive for others to join. The basic idea is that others who used the content will also start contributing to the portal and the activities become self-sustainable (after period 3).

#### 2.6. FACE TO FACE COMMUNITY BUILDING STRATEGY

Apart from the online community building there were face-to-face meetings to share ideas, to gain understanding and appreciation of other disciplines. Therefore monthly online meetings were organised in which partners discuss their activities face-to-face.

Physical meetings were used to build the community through social relations. These meetings were organised in conjunction with important conferences and other events relevant to the community and served as point of reference, where results and information gathered in the recent period were discussed, structured and amended, and plans for the subsequent period were confirmed from the work plan or will be revised accordingly.

An important task of the face to face community building meetings was the organisation of Phd Colloquia. PhD research provides the basis for any scientific field. Stimulating research in this field, providing feedback, and ensuring the various disciplines are considered in the research provide a foundation for the eGovPoliNet field.

Resulting outputs were be the results of both online and offline community building strategy. Output was created by members of different communities who use the output to work together. The type of output typically contained comparative work which compares practices or compares efforts within communities. This was aimed at analysing differences and similarities among communities and practices.

The other type of output was joint work in which persons from different communities collaborate with each other. This had different forms, like a description and analysis of a policy-making practice, the writing of a white paper, the writing of a scientific paper to be published at a conference or journal or a special issue containing input from different disciplines.

For each output contribution to the following three requirements should be satisfied.

- 1. The work should not have been conducted without eGovPoliNet
- 2. The work should contribute to the objective of eGovPoliNet community building
- 3. The work should result in community building (outcome)

The latter requirements should be described by each community building activity. How it contributes to the community and constituency building.

Finally, having tracks, special issues and writing of proposals between members of the formerly fragmented communities demonstrates the collaboration between various communities and should ensure long term sustainability.

#### 2.7. SUMMARY

A combination of online and face-to-face community building activities were employed. The first period was focussed on community building among the eGovPoliNet members and setting the right conditions, whereas the second period was more externally focussed to involve non-eGovPoliNet partners, to start collaboration among members from different communities and to build a broader





eGovPoliNet community. The third period was focussed on stimulating collaborating and ensuring sustainability.





#### 3. COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT

In this chapter on an overview of the community and constituency development over the years is given. Period 1 and 2 are summarised, whereas the events for period 3 are presented in detail.

#### 3.1. TARGETED COMMUNITIES

To mitigate the risk of targeting a too broad range of communities which are less relevant, the focus has been on targeting five communities that provide the core field for ICT-enabled Policy-making. A summary of the main communities targeted is given in Table 2.

**Table 2: Main communities targeted** 

Main communities	Contributing insights to the domain
E-government (or short EGOV)	E-government is the interdisciplinary field that tackles ICT and public administration aspects in a broad sense (this includes integrated service delivery, web 2.0, etc.). E-government is considered to be interdisciplinary by nature and is open for eGovPoliNet type of work which needs elements from public administration, policy-making, simulation, and complex systems. Within this field the IFIP WP8.5 working group on Public administration & ICT, international community on theory and practice of governance (ICEGOV) and digital government society (DGS) are targeted.
Information systems (or short IS)	Information systems bridges business and computer science and studies both the technical system as social system. The Association for Information Systems (AIS) serves society through the advancement of knowledge and the promotion of excellence in the practice and study of information systems. The AIS is targeted by focusing on the European conference on Information Systems and UKAIS conference.
Complex systems (or short CS)	The study of systems built of individual agents that are capable of adapting as they interact with each other and with an environment, and especially the attempt to understand how the individuals affect the system-level responses (Auyang, 1998). In recent years, CAS has attracted much interest in management and organisational related literature. Complex systems view organisation as an entity that emerges over time into a coherent form, and adapts and organises itself without any singular entity deliberately managing or controlling it.
Public Administration & Policy Research	Political science studies the political system and political behaviour of state, government, and politics. It aims to analyse and understand, revealing the relationships underlying political events and conditions. Public administration houses the implementation of government policy and an academic discipline that studies this implementation and that prepares civil servants for this work. Public administration is "centrally concerned with the organisation of government policies and programs as well as the behaviour of officials (usually non-elected) formally responsible for their conduct". The focus is on International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) and association of public administration (APA)
Social simulation	Modelling, simulation and visualisation provides the instruments and tools for being able to gain an understanding of the phenomena and being able to visualise what is going on. The focus of these communities is often not on policy-making, but on advancing the modelling constructs and visualisations. The focus is on The Society for Modelling and Simulation Europe (SCS).



#### 3.2. THE 'COMMUNITY' IN PERIOD 1 (START)

The measures for showing the growth and success of eGovPoliNet are defined in D3.1 (M. Janssen et al., 2012). As the project refocused on researchers and less on practitioners the indicators" Number of collaborations between practitioners and academics", "number of case studies" and "Number of best practices" have been removed. Instead "Number of PhD colloquia organised" and "Number of PhD proposals at colloquia have been included.

A qualitative and quantitative survey was conducted during the start of the project. The survey consists of two parts: first, for each respondent it inventories disciplines, core communities, known communities, collaboration communities, research topics, methods used and expectations of the project. Furthermore, it inventories relationships with members of the international network, serving as the initial measurement for the social network analysis of the survey that will be repeated multiple times in the course of the project.

We used *NodeXL* for conducting the social network analyses as this is an MS Excel based open source based tool which has been used for conducting similar analysis (Welser, Gleave, Smith, Barash, & Meckes, 2009) and has integrated visualisation options and can be learned within a short timeframe (Hansen, Shneiderman, & Smith, 2011). Figure 4 shows the network from the start as analysed using NodeXL. The nodes represent the persons who are part of the eGovPoliNet network and their relationship with each other. This graph shows that most of the persons who take part in the project already know each other, or at least several persons. But there are exceptions who only know a few persons.

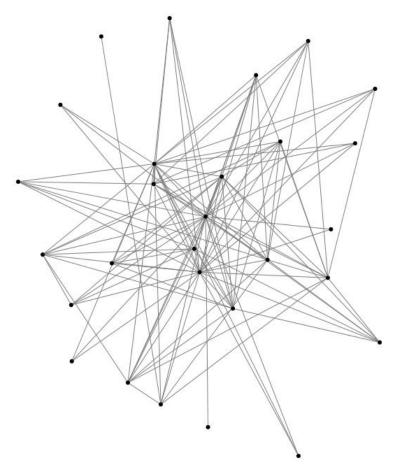


Figure 4: Social network analysis of the eGovPoliNet members at the start



In Figure 5, the network after period 1 is visualised. The data is based on the participants of the events organised. In the first period key persons in the targeted communities were identified to connect to and events were organised to make this work. This figure shows that several communities have been connected to the core of eGovPoliNet by focusing on key stakeholders (linking pins). For example, the red nodes are the information systems community, which shows that four eGovPoliNet partner representatives connected to this community and 6 key persons from this community are involved. In total there are 7 groups defined in the analysis, 1. eGovPoliNet (that means partner representatives), 2. EGOV, 3. Information systems, 4. complex systems, 5. Public administration & Policy research, 6. social administration (that means only those who are connected are included in the analysis, as not all persons within these communities are known and can be added) and 7. Practitioners (those who participated in events). The connection to the e-government community is strong, whereas the connection to complex systems is the weakest.

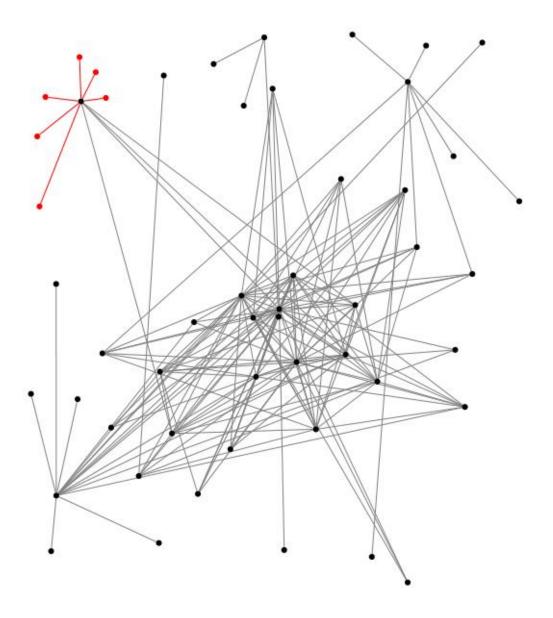


Figure 5: Social network analysis of the eGovPoliNet members after period 1



#### 3.3. THE 'COMMUNITY' IN PERIOD 2

In period 2 a variety of events were organised and analyses using SNAs were made based on the events as presented and analysed in D3.2 (Marijn Janssen & Deljoo, 2014) – see Figure 6. Like in the figure of period 1 the red nodes are the information systems community, which shows the growth from this community into the eGovPoliNet community. It shows an increase in ties to the starting communities (on the right hand side in the figure). The graph also shows that only a few members from this community are connected to other communities (i.e. the one at the top – complex systems).

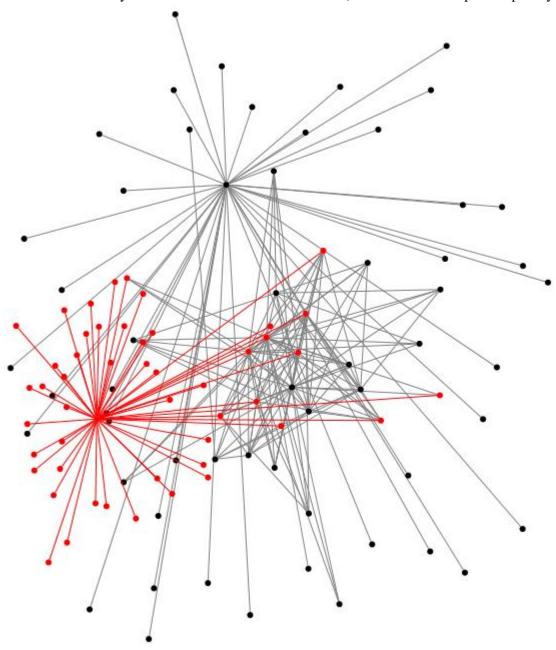


Figure 6: Social network analysis of the eGovPoliNet members after period 2





The *network density* is the proportion of direct ties in a network relative to the total number of possible ties (Emirbayer and Goodwin (1994) cited in Zhang et al., 2011). Although we expected that the network density would have decreased due to the growth of the network, it did not. There was more collaboration among members than expected, which results in a slight increase in the network density. With collaborative ties between actors we mean e.g. write papers together, write grant proposals together, collaborate in a project. Just knowing each other is enough for having ties, but not sufficient for collaborative ties. Whereas the network closeness is calculated by the distances between pairs of actors (Hanneman & Ridddle, 2005). The network closeness has slightly increased, as there are many new members that do not know each other. In the LinkedIn community there are many members that do not participate actively and only listen. Community building activities and collaboration in period 3 should result in a decrease of the distance among members, so a more coherent community will be created.

#### 3.4. COMMUNITY AND CONSTITUENCY BUILDING IN PERIOD 3

In addition to recruiting persons at the individual level, a large number of community building activities has been organised. We distinguish between three types of community building activities.

- 1. Community building events: aimed at letting the community grow
- 2. Community building events for collaboration: Aimed at stimulating collaboration within the community
- 3. Community building events for PhD student: PhD Colloquia aimed at involving PhD Students in this field

#### 3.4.1. Community building events

This type of community building events are aimed at recruiting members for the community and keeping existing members active. At all events the participants have been asked to fill in a presence list including their name and email address. These lists are used to invite participants to the LinkedIn community and become active. In total 485 attendees participated in the events, as is shown in Table 3. From these persons 29 became new community members for the LinkedIn group. Indirectly there might be more members, but we are not able to trace this. Also a large number of participants were already a member as most events are a continuation of the events organised in the previous period (and as such could not be added anymore).

Please note that one person can be involved in multiple events. For example the panel and plenary discussions at ICEGOV has likely overlapping audience as the total number of conference attendees was about 350 persons. We tried to take this into account, but had to make guesses as no detailed attendance list was available. In period 3 the number of new participants added to the LinkedIn community due to these activity is less than in period 2, as already many attendees has become members over the last period.





Table 3: Community building events organised in period 3 and assigned to targeted communities

		1				_		1	1
Event	Partner	Impact	E-government	Information Systems	Complex systems	Public Administration & Policy research	Social simulation	Total number of participations	Participants Added to the community (direct)
Panel at ICEGOV "Building Global E- Government Research and Policy Community"	UNU- IIST/ CTG/ UKL/	LinkedIn members, minutes	X			X		100	15
Plenary discussion at ICEGOV – "Role of Government in Technology-enabled Public Engagement: Driving or Facilitating?"	TUD	LinkedIn members, minutes	X			X		183 (5 panelists)	unknown
tGov workshop presentation	UKL/ UBRUN/ TUD	LinkedIn members, minutes	X	X	X	X		51	3
Curriculum development Policy Informatics	CTG/ TUD/ UKL	curriculum	X	X	X	X	X	32	3
Samos summit for policy- making - Transforming Policy-making: Reasons for slow adoption by policy-makers	TUD	Presentation	X		X	X		22	(all were members
ECIS panel - Information Systems in the Public Sector: bringing information systems into policy-making	UBRUN/ TUD	LinkedIn members, minutes	X				X	12 (5 panelist)	3
panel at Dg.o - Understanding and Improving the Uptake and Utilization of Open Data	TUD	LinkedIn members, Collabora- tion	X			X		16 (2 organisers)	2
SKIN workshop – joining complexity science and social simulation for policy (SKIN 3)	EUAK	LinkedIn members, Collabora- tion						44	1
NASPAA panel - #OpenData #BigData: data, big and small, in the public affairs curriculum	CTG	LinkedIn members, Collabora- tion				X		35 (4 panelists)	2
Total			7	2	3	7	2	485	29

3.4.2. Community building events for collaboration





The community building events for collaboration are aimed at stimulating the writing of papers by members of different communities and presentation of papers from one community to another community. In total, 123 papers and 5 journal papers have been developed by persons from different communities (mostly non-partners). Apart from the collaboration these events also resulted directly in attracting 36 new community members, mainly in the field of policy research, for the LinkedIn group. Indirectly there might be more members, but we are not able to trace this. Table 4 gives an overview.

Table 4: Types of community building activities, number of collaborative engagements of community members along targeted communities and impact achieved

_					•				
Event	Partner	Types of community building activity	E-Government	Information Systems	Complex systems	Public Administration & Policy research	Social simulation	Total number of participations	Participants Added to the community (direct)
Track at ICEGOV	UNI-IIST, CTG/ TUD / UKL	Collabora- tion, papers, abstract to portal	X			X		6 papers 14 authors	2
Track at dg.o	TUD/CTG	Paper, proceedings	X	X				10 papers 30 authors	None*
SKIN workshop – joining complexity science and social simulation for policy (SKIN 3)	EUAK	Papers proceedings	X		X			16 Papers 5 posters 23 authors	17
Track at the 17th international conference "Internet and modern society" and its part "e-Governance in Information society" (INGOSE2014), St Petersburg,	IMTO/ TUD	Collabora- tion, new LinkedIn, abstract to portal		X			X	54 papers 63 authors	9
Papers at IFIP EGOV/ePart conference related	TUD /UKL	Papers proceedings	X		X		X	7 papers 22 authors	None*
tGov workshop - Co- Creating Public Services of the Future: The Role of ICT and Citizens' Participation in Transforming Government	UBRUN/ UKL/ TUD	EU project meetings	X	X	X		X	12 papers 31 authors	1
Total			5	3	3		4	113 papers 175 authors 5 posters	29

<sup>\*</sup> those engaged were already members



#### 3.4.3. Community building events by having special issues of journals

The previous activities showed that there are many conference publications. In the short life time of this project, we managed to have two special issues with 9 peer-reviewed publications as listed in Table 5.

Table 5: Number of peer-reviewed publications in two special issues

Event	Partner	E-Government	Information Systems	Complex systems	Public Administration & Policy research	Social simulation	Total number of participations	Participants Added to the community (direct)
International Journal of E-Government Research (IJEGR), Special Issue on Policy-making: a next challenge in e-government research	TUD	х	X	X	X	X	5 papers 21 authors	None
Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (PAM) Special Issue on policy informatics	CTG			X	X		4 papers 18 authors	7
Total			2	3	2	1	9 papers 39 authors	7

In the International Journal of E-Government Research (IJEGR) a special issue about EU FP7 projects was published which included the following papers:

- 1. Preface: Special Issue on Policy-Making: The Next Challenge in E-Government Research by Mariin Janssen
- 2. Fostering Smart Cities through ICT Driven Policy-Making: Expected Outcomes and Impacts of DAREED Project by Uthayasankar Sivarajah, Habin Lee, Zahir Irani, Vishanth Weerakkody
- 3. Infusing Innovation in the Policy Analysis and Evaluation Phases of the Policy Cycle: The Policy Compass Approach by Ourania Markaki, Panagiotis Kokkinakos, Sotirios Koussouris, John Psarras, Habin Lee, Martin Löhe, Yuri Glikman
- 4. Lessons on Measuring e-Government Satisfaction: An Experience from Surveying Government Agencies in the UK by Paul Waller, Zahir Irani, Habin Lee, Vishanth Weerakkody
- 5. LiveCity: The Impact of Video Communication on Emergency Medicine by Camilla Metelmann, Bibiana Metelmann, Michael Wendt, Konrad Meissner, Martin von der Heyden
- 6. The Need for Policies to Overcome eGov Implementation Challenges by Abraheem Alsaeed, Carl Adams, Rich Boakes

A special issue for the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (JPAM) was organised in this about Policy Informatics by Anand Desai and Yushim Kim, who actively participate in the eGovPoliNet community.





- 1. Preface: Symposium on Policy Informatics by Anand Desai and Yushim Kim
- 2. Policy modelling for the New York state HIV testing law. by Erika G. Martin, Roderick H. MacDonald, Lou C. Smith, Daniel E. Gordon, James M. Tesoriero, Franklin N. Laufer, Shu-Yin J. Leung and Daniel A. O'Connell
- 3. The current beneath the "rising tide" of school choice: An analysis of student enrollment flows in the Chicago public schools by M. Irmak Sirer, Spiro Maroulis, Roger Guimerà, Uri Wilensky and Luís A. Nunes Amaral
- 4. What is a "good" social network for policy implementation? The flow of know-how for organisational change by Kenneth A. Frank, William R. Penuel and Ann Krause

#### 3.4.4. Policy Informatics Curriculum

As we are creating and shaping this new field and knowledge base, the need for a curriculum has appeared. There are no standard curricula and developing a curriculum demands input from various disciplines. A workshop was held to explore integration of data-intensive analytical skills in public affairs education. This workshop should provide the basis for the uptake of new developments in existing programmes.

The workshop "Policy Informatics in the PA Curriculum: A workshop to explore integration of data-intensive analytical skills in public affairs education" was held on Friday, May 9, 2014 at the Center for Technology in Government, University at Albany. The event is supported by a grant to CTG from the National Science Foundation and by the eGovPoliNet Consortium co-funded by the European Commission FP7 Program. The workshop had the following goals:

- 1. To understand the analytical needs of policy makers and program managers
- 2. To share approaches to educating public administration and policy analysis students in the types, uses, and limitations of policy informatics
- 3. To explore new methods for policy informatics education
- 4. To consider curriculum recommendations for public affairs schools.

Public administration and public policy curricula need to confront these trends and develop ways to train professional analysts and managers to understand and address them. This workshop showed the needs and opportunities in the emerging data-intensive science and decision-making environment and explored ways to integrate them into public affairs education<sup>3</sup>.

#### 3.4.5. Springer book "Policy-Practice and digital science"

To take advantage of these developments in the digital world, approaches are changing and new methods are needed, which are able to deal with societal and computational complexity. This requires the use of knowledge originating from various disciplines including public administration, policy analyses, information systems, complex systems and computer science. All these knowledge areas are needed for policy-making in the digital age. The aim of this book is to provide a foundation for this new interdisciplinary field, in which various traditional disciplines are blended together with the curriculum development. This book provides a foundation for this growing field.

In total 54 different authors were involved in the creation of this book. Some chapters have a single author, but most of the chapters have different authors. The authors represent a wide range of disciplines as shown in Figure 7. The focus has been on targeting five communities that provide the core field for ICT-enabled governance and policy making. A sixth category was added for authors not belonging to any of these communities, such as philosophy, and economics. The figure shows that the contribution of authors are evenly distributed among the communities. A large part of the authors can

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Read more information of the workshop under http://www.ctg.albany.edu/news/events?eventID=72 (last access: 27/02/2015)





be classified as belonging to the e-government/e-participation community, which is by nature interdisciplinary. More details of the book with chapter contributions of the project partners can be found in deliverable D 4.3, section 2.3.

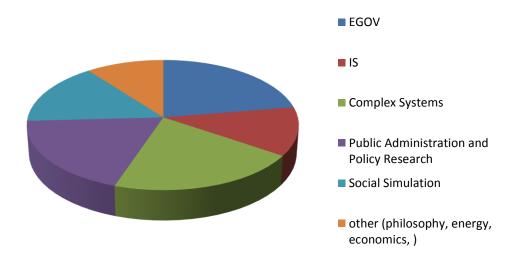


Figure 7: Overview of the disciplinary background of the chapter authors

#### 3.4.6. PhD colloquia

Like in period 2, the PhD colloquia are organised at conferences in the e-government community. These type of conferences are interdisciplinary by nature and the organisers are open for interdisciplinary research. Furthermore, these conferences attract persons coming from various communities, and these conferences are of interest for persons from various communities. In total 13 PhD students presented their research at the 3 PhD colloquia as is shown in Table 6. This is a considerable drop when comparing to period 2. One reason is that there is one PhD colloquium less, which could not be continued. The other is that there are less PhD submissions. This can be an indication that less PhD students started in this area.

Table 6: Overview of PhD colloquia and students distributed across disciplines

Event	partner	E-government	Information Systems	Complex systems	Public Administration & Policy research	Social simulation	Number of PhD proposals	Total participants
PhD. Colloquium ICEGOV	UNI-IIST, TUD	X	X	X	X	X	6	12
PhD colloquium DG.O	CTG, TUD, CERTH	X	X	X	X	X	4	9
PhD colloquium at IFIP EGOV and ePart	UKL, CTG/SUNY, TUD, CERTH	X	X	X	X	X	3	7
Total							13	28





#### 3.5. THE ROLE OF LINKEDIN AND THE PORTAL IN THE COMMUNITY

Figure 8 gives an overview of the discussions started and commented in the LinkedIn community, starting from November 2011. A steadily initiation of discussions is shown, whereas the responses (comments) to the initiated discussions vary a lot. Partly this can be attributed to the topic, as a discussion is often the announcement of an event, the sharing of new work. The sharing of ideas and discussion about ideas is posted less frequently. This also shows that a large number of members are 'listeners', they follow the discussions but do not actively contribute.

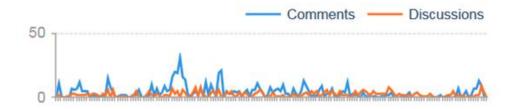


Figure 8: Overview of discussions and comments in the LinkedIn community over time

In the LinkedIn community a 'network effect' or 'network externality' seems to have occurred. Network effects or network externalities refer to the dependence of the value of a good or service on the number of other people who use it (Katz & Shapiro, 1985). A positive network externality happens as being part of a community becomes more valuable as more users joined the eGovPoliNet community. The network effect can explain the ongoing growth of the LinkedIn community, although our efforts were not focused on letting it grow anymore in the final period. The large number of members will ensure that there is a sufficient number of participants to ensure interactions and participations.



Figure 9: Overview of the traffic of the Portal





The google analytics for the project portal for period 29 May 2014 until 25 September 2014 are shown in Figure 9. It shows the activities and the users. The analytics show an increase in visitors in comparison to period 2.

The table below shows an overview of the development of the community in terms of LinkedIn members and portal members and visitors. This tables shows that the community has considerably developed over time.

Table 7 Overview of the LinkedIn and Portal community

	Initiating (end of period 1)	Expanding (end of period 2)	Sustaining (End of project, end of period 3)
LinkedIn: number of members	267	1290	2740
Portal: number of members	0	53	163
Portal: number of unique visitors	0	219	612

#### 3.6. ANALYSING THE COMMUNITY AT THE END OF PERIOD 3

The collaboration is analysed based on the metrics determined in period 1. The number of joint papers is calculated by counting the 113 conference papers, 9 journal papers, and 19 book chapters which result in 141 joint papers. The tables before show that 15 events were organised from which 4 are panels. Some events took place at the same outlet (for example there were 2 panels and a track at ICEGOV). The observed collaborations resulting in a paper were estimated at 59. As there are 141 joint papers the actual collaboration must be higher.

Table 8: Collaboration at the end of period 3

	After period 1	After period 2	After period 3
Number of joint papers	6	28	141
Number of workshops and panels	8	12	15
	(2 panels)	(4 panels)	(4 panels)
Collaboration leading to a paper	4	28	59
Number of PhD colloquia organised	0	4	3
Number of PhD proposals at colloquia	0	33	13

Based on the events and collaborations a social network analysis (SNA) was conducted. Like in the figures of period 1 (Figure 5) and period 2 (Figure 6) the red nodes are the information systems community. Figure 10 shows the growth from the community and it shows that more and more members from this community are connected to other communities. Indeed there might be more connections which were not administrated and fall outside our scope of analysis (e.g. like events organised by others, events in which attendee lists were not completed and conference/journal papers not indexed).





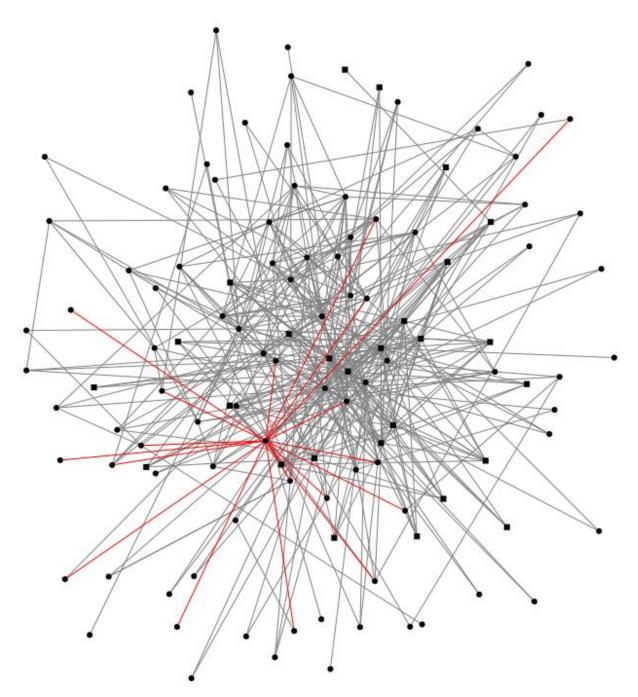


Figure 10: Social network analysis of the eGovPoliNet members after period 3

Figure 11 shows the social network and the members of the eGovPoliNet community. It shows that the network has considerably expanded beyond the original eGovPoliNet members which are depicted using the red colour, whereas the information systems persons are blue. The circle on the outside shows the persons who are 'listeners', who do not actively engage in content-generation, but consume the context and incidentally contribute to a discussion on LinkedIn. There are more persons who are only 'listeners' than visualised in this figure. We did not opt for including them and limited the analysis to 477 persons from which 385 persons can be classified as active.





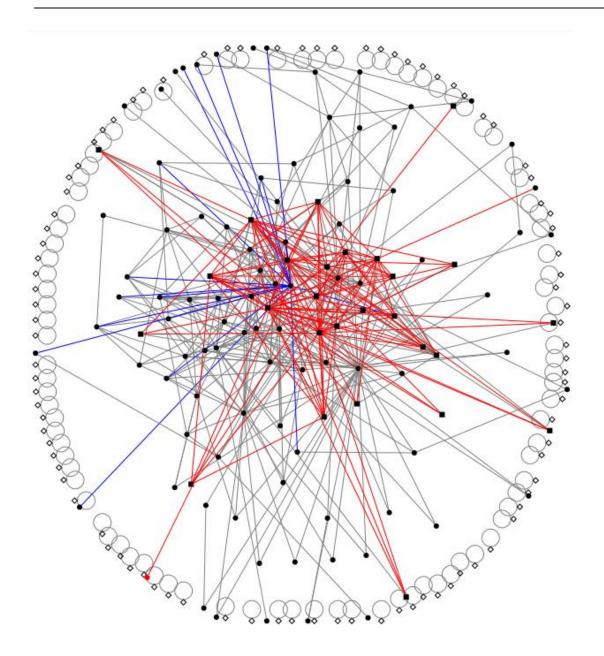


Figure 11: Social network and the eGovPoliNet members after period 3

There are various other *limitations* in the SNA analysis. First, we did not include the visitors of the portal. Second, sometimes persons cannot easily be allocated to a certain community. Some persons fit within two or even more communities which makes it difficult to determine how communities are collected. Third, collaboration can involve papers having multiple authors. Only key authors might be open and collaborate with other members, whereas some authors might only provide their expertise. Nevertheless all authors are included in the analyses. Finally, we had 2 events in period 3 in which the attendees list were not collected and we had to guess the number of attendees.

Table 9 shows the development of the community. The *network size* is calculated by counting the number of different persons who attended the events over the years. The network size for collaborating is 513 which is calculated by adding up 485 persons attending events and 28 person attending the Phd





colloquia. Papers have 1 or more authors, whereas PhD proposals have one authors (PhD supervisors are not included in the network size).

Table 9: Social network at the end of each period

	Start of the project	Initiating (end of period 1)	Expanding (end of period 2)	Sustaining (End of project)
Network size ('knowing');	0	160	485	513
Network size ('collaborating');	0	42	91	187
Network density;	0	0,019	0,021	0,024
Network Closeness (average geographic distance);	0	2,94	3,06	2,93

The *network density* is the proportion of direct ties in a network relative to the total number of possible ties (Emirbayer and Goodwin (1994) cited in Zhang et al., 2011). The network grew in period 3, but at the same time there are many collaborations among members which resulted in a slight increase in the network density. In the LinkedIn community there are many members that do not participate actively and only listen. If the 'listeners' were left out this number would be much higher.

With collaborative ties between actors we mean e.g. write papers together, write grant proposals together, collaborating in a project. Just knowing each other is enough for having ties, but not sufficient for collaborative ties. Whereas the *network closeness* is calculated by the distances between pairs of actors (Hanneman & Ridddle, 2005). The network closeness has decreased, as the links between core members are closer, even for those who are new and entering the network.





## 4. COMMUNITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES PLANNED AFTER THE PROJECT ENDING

In the first period, a number of community building activities have taken place which were focussed on analysing and understanding the community. In the second period, the community building activities focussed on expanding the community. In the third period, the focus was on sustainability; this was done by ensuring that persons from outside the eGovPoliNet project were involved in the organisation of events. In period three, the focus was on continuing key events and enlarging the impact of these events. Several of the events organised have become 'accepted' by these conferences and considered as 'belonging' as part of these conferences. The conference organised provided invitation for running the track for another year without having to ask for. This has resulted in a large number of events that are continued after the project ending.

Table 10 indicates the planned community events for collaboration. These are more than in period 2 to ensure that community members collaborate. Furthermore, the same outlets as in period 2 are targeted as this ensures a recurring presence. Persons will get to know the events and will start considering this as a periodically occurring event. Apart from eGovPoliNet partners, other persons will be involved in the organisation of these events to ensure sustainability after the project ends.

Table 10: Indication of planned community events to sustainably support collaboration of the Policy Community

Event	Expected impact	E-government (EGOV)	Information systems (IS)	Complex systems	Public Administration & Policy research	Social simulation
Track at ICEGOV	Collaboration, abstract to portal	X			X	
Track/ at dg.o	Collaboration	X			X	
ESSA – social simulation	Collaboration			X		X
eGovernment Policy/Policy informatics minitrack at AMCIS	Collaboration	X	X		X	
Joining Complexity Science and Social Simulation for Policy (SKIN 3)	Papers in proceedings			X		X
Policy Modelling and Policy Informatics Track at IFIP EGOV/ePart	Papers in proceedings, Platform for networking	X		X	X	
tGov workshop	EU project meetings	X	X	X	X	X
Total		5	2	4	5	3

Although the number of events varies per community, this does not mean that the impact in this community might be less. For example, the eGovernment Policy/Policy informatics minitrack at AMCIS might have a huge impact as AMCIS is visited by 700-1000 information systems experts.





Three PhD colloquia are organised at primarily e-government type of conferences. The idea is to attract PhD students from all communities to those colloquia to ensure that PhD students from various disciplines meet each other in a multidisciplinary setting. Table 11 indicates the plans of PhD colloquia in the future.

Table 11: Indication of planned PhD colloquia of the sustained Policy Community

Event	Expected Impact	E-government (EGOV)	Information systems (IS)	Complex systems	Public Administration & Policy research	Social simulation
PhD colloquium ICEGOV	Collaboration, abstract to portal	X	X	X	X	X
PhD colloquium at Dg.o	Collaboration, abstract to portal	X	X	X	X	X
PhD colloquium at IFIP EGOV/ePart	Collaboration, abstract to portal	X	X	X	X	X
Total		3	3	3	3	3



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## ANNEX A: TEMPLATE FOR COMMUNITY & CONSTITUENCY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

Field	Details (YOUR DATA HERE!)	
Description(to be filled in before the event)		
\Id	This is a unique identifier of the activity.	
Title		
Topic	Description (Who, Why, What, When, Where, How)	
Purpose	the purpose of the event related to the objective of eGovPoliNet community and constituency building. For example the purpose is 1) participation and/or 2) integrate the currently fragmented research by involving both policy-researchers as well as complex systems researchers)	
Communities involved:	(e.g. complex system researchers and policy-makers from government,	
Туре	Knowing or collaboration (in time this should shift to the latter)	
Location and date	What is the location and date (e.g. at IFIP EGOV Conference in Koblenz September 2013), including URL (if applicable)	
Set-up event:	draft agenda (related to the purpose to be achieved, including name of presenters, name of presentation and other detailed information)	
Who	Who is the organiser who are the collaborators	

Actual impact			
Communities involved:	(e.g. complex system researchers and policy-makers from government, including list of names)		
Feedback:	(e.g minutes, who is going to collaborate with whom,).		
Outcomes	quantifiable outcomes related to KPI after the event took place (eg. Event resulted in XX linked in members, 2 case studies,)		

Dissemination (only if it was also a dissemination activity that goes beyond the persons mentioned before)				
Field	Details (YOUR DATA HERE!)			
Short description of work performed	(1-2 lines. It should include some info such as number of copies produced, languages covered etc).			
Reason why the material was created (Objective)	(1-2 lines)			
Relevant WP(s)	List here the specific WPs for which this material was produced. If the material was produced to disseminate the whole project's results you should write "PROJECT".			





Partners that created the material	The partner (organisations' name) that created this material.
Other partners involved	
Type of audience the material is designed for	(preferably a list of participants names, their function and affiliation)
Number of audience reached	(see above, the total number distributed over groups like policy-makers, researchers, elected politicians, public managers etc.)
What impact is to be reached according to the project objectives	
More info	
Attachment	You must provide the material in electronic form.

